

**WEED CONTROL BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 12, 2015 – 10:00 AM**

1. MEETING TO ORDER

A meeting of the Cass County Weed Control Board was called to order at 10:00 AM on Monday, January 12, 2015, in the Weed Control Office building with the following members present: Clayton Brennan, Ken Hagen, Chris Murch, and Larry Wilcox. Also present were Stanley Wolf, Cass County Weed Control Officer; Mary Scherling, Cass County Commissioner, and Alicia Hildebrand, Accountant.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION, passed

Mr. Brennan moved and Mr. Hagen seconded to approve the meeting minutes from December 8, 2014. Motion carried.

3. AGENDA, Order approved

MOTION, passed

Mr. Hagen moved and Mr. Brennan seconded to approve the order of the agenda. Motion carried.

4. APPROVAL OF BILLS

Alicia Hildebrand was present to discuss the December financial statement. As of December 31, 2014, the Weed Control fund balance was \$370,469.55. The projected 2014 ending balance is \$265,153.12.

Mr. Wolf said he inadvertently overcharged the Water Resource District on an invoice. Once he realized the error, he reimbursed them for the overpayment. This is reflected in the first line item on the December check register.

Ms. Scherling asked if Mr. Wolf monitors flood lots that the county has purchased for noxious weeds. Mr. Wolf said he monitors them and bills the County Commission directly for expenditures. The City of Fargo is in line to take over some of the lots and Mr. Wolf will continue to monitor them and will notify the city if issues arise.

MOTION, passed

Mr. Hagen moved and Mr. Brennan seconded to approve the bills for December as presented. Motion carried.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Election of Officers

MOTION, passed

Mr. Brennan moved and Mr. Murch seconded to keep the current Weed Board officers with Mr. Wilcox serving as Chairman and Mr. Hagen serving as Vice Chairman. Motion carried.

2015 Meeting Schedule

MOTION, passed

Mr. Hagen moved and Mr. Brennan seconded to approve the 2015 Cass County Weed Board Meeting schedule as provided by Mr. Wolf. Motion carried.

NDAWN Grant

Mr. Wolf said the North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network (NDAWN) operates remote weather systems in the state. The system provides automatic updates of weather related statistics via the internet or a smartphone application. There is no charge to access the information and it is open to the public. There are four monitoring stations in Cass County. Weed control staff and contract sprayers use the information provided by these stations to check weather conditions before and during spraying operations. Historical data is also available.

In previous years, the Weed Board has granted \$500 to NDAWN to assist with the costs of operating the remote weather stations. Mr. Wolf contacts the NDAWN manager to identify which station needs the funds each year, and he includes this information in an award letter.

Ms. Scherling asked if the National Weather Service is involved with NDAWN. Mr. Wolf said they are not. NDAWN is primarily set up for and used by Ag producers.

MOTION, passed

Mr. Murch moved and Mr. Brennan seconded to approve the Weed Board to provide a \$500 grant to sponsor NDAWN in Cass County. Motion carried

Datalogger/Outback GPS

Mr. Wolf said he sent a copy of a proposal out for a GPS system consisting of an Outback STX Guidance tracking unit and an Elite Multi-event Datalogger with accompanying hardware and interface wiring. The proposal totaled \$5,415.00. The system will replace the GPS mapping system for the Honda sprayer, which is nearly 10 years old and no longer repairable. The new system is identical to the system bought for the Kubota last year. Mr. Wolf said the new systems are much safer as they allow the driver to continue looking forward while using the units, instead of turning around to try to identify tracks. Mr. Wolf said the units also have a time and location stamp that can be very useful for reporting purposes.

Mr. Wilcox asked if there is a warranty on the unit. Mr. Wolf said there is a one year warranty, and the unit servicer is top notch.

MOTION, passed

Mr. Brennan moved and Mr. Hagen seconded to approve the purchase of the Outback STX Guidance unit with accompanying mounting hardware and interface wiring in the amount of \$5,415.00. Motion carried.

6. MONTHLY REPORT

Noxious Weed Development Fund Proposal

The North Dakota Weed Control Association (NDWCA) will be pursuing a consistent funding mechanism to support various research, development, education, and outreach projects related to noxious weeds.

Mr. Wilcox asked if the NDWCA plans on asking the North Dakota Legislature for funding. Mr. Wolf said at this point they are planning to wait until they have found backing for a proposal. Mr. Wolf will write the proposal and present it to the North Dakota Weed Control Board at their next meeting in March.

Pending Legislation

The 2015 North Dakota Legislative session opened January 6th. Mr. Wolf said Senate Bill 2056 has been drafted and will impact county Weed Boards by changing wording regarding requesting tax funding and County Commission taxing authority.

Mr. Wolf said the bill should not be an issue, but the board should remain cognizant so the weed bill does not become watered down.

Mr. Wilcox said there could be issues for boards if there is no levy authority and boards are forced to rely solely on the county commissions for funding.

Mr. Wolf said he will keep the board posted on the bill.

Other

Mr. Wolf said the new Kubota has been ordered and is in at Fargo Tractor. Mr. Wolf will be present to assist with the transfer of spraying equipment from the old unit. Mr. Wolf also ordered a canopy for the Kubota as a separate line item.

Mr. Wolf said he used the remaining funds in the North Dakota Agriculture Department Targeted Assistance Grant (TAG) program to replace two tires on the trailer and order several herbicides, which should be enough for the 2015 spray season. The \$5,000 TAG program allocation for the current biennium has been expended.

Mr. Wolf said he is working with the County IT department to organize and delete unnecessary computer files to reduce storage needs and prepare for transferring files to the Office365 cloud storage system.

Mr. Wolf said the county Emergency Manager has asked all county departments to develop and submit a Continuity of Operations Plan to outline how the department will function in the event of a disaster. The plan should include minimal operational needs, chain of command, and contact lists.

Mr. Wolf discussed various presentations from the NDWCA Annual Conference, including an Ag Commissioners forum, adhering to open meeting guidelines if there is a quorum, and a change in the Farm Program. Mr. Wolf said the North Dakota Association of Counties (NDACo), was also present to discuss ATV safety.

NDACo would like to set up a training program to certify employees in ATV safety. Mr. Wolf and two employees from Vector Control would go through the train the trainer program to become certified to teach the course to their own seasonal employees. After the death of a Weed Control Officer in an ATV accident elsewhere in the state, NDACo is encouraging counties to become proactive in the training and safety of their employees.

Mr. Wolf said he was recently educated about an annual weed named Palmer Amaranth. The weed is tolerant to four classes of chemicals and can grow as high as 10 feet. The stalks can reach the width of baseball bats, and are capable of destroying combine heads. The NDSU Extension office is putting together an early detection program in conjunction with the Ag Commission to eradicate the weed

before it can take hold in North Dakota.

Mr. Wilcox asked how close the weed is to North Dakota. Mr. Wolf said it has been identified in South Dakota and is creeping north.

7. UPCOMING EVENTS:

Wild World of Weeds	January 20, Fargo
Soil/Water Workshop	January 21, Fargo
NDWCA Board Meeting	March, Mandan

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:34 AM.

Minutes prepared by Brielle Edwards, Principal Secretary